

Application No.: 10/731,530

Docket No.: JCLA10474

REMARKS**Present Status of Patent Application**

Claims 1-20 remain pending of which independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended. It is believed that no new matter adds by way of amendments to claims or otherwise to the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action mailed on September 21, 2007, the Examiner rejected all claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with written description requirement, and also rejected all claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention.

In rejecting the claims 1-20, the Examiner stated that the claim contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time of the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to recite that the plate has a "generally flat". The originally file specification fails to disclose such a feature and this fails to support the claims as amended.

In response thereto, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reasons for rejections of Claims 1 and 17, and traverse the above rejections as follows. Applicants respectfully submit that the meaning of "generally flat surface" is "smooth surface" which can be

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found in the Merriam-Webster dictionary and the Collins Pocket dictionary, in which the term "smooth surface" means "continuous even surface" (please visit the Merriam-Webster online dictionary at <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/smooth>), and the meaning of "even surface" in the Merriam-Webster dictionary and the Collins Pocket dictionary is "horizontal surface flat or smooth surface" (please visit the Merriam-Webster online dictionary at <http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary>). Therefore, the original phrase "plain smooth surface" can be otherwise expressed as "generally flat surface or flat surface or smooth surface or horizontal surface". Thus, even though the specification does not describe that the meaning of the "plain smooth surface" as being "generally flat surface", one skilled in the art (by referring to the dictionary) would easily understand the meaning of "plain smooth surface" as "generally flat surface" or "smooth surface" or "even surface" or "flat surface". Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Drawings (Figures 1-6) clearly show that the plate 204 has a flat surface or a smooth surface, and therefore the specification fully supports that the plate 204 has a "generally flat surface" or a "flat surface" or a "smooth surface".

Furthermore, the Applicants have amended claims 1 and 17, wherein the phrase "generally flat surface" is changed to read --flat surface--, in order to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested.

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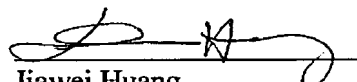
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending claims 1-20 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

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Respectfully submitted,
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